

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00155 100455Z

17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 100400Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2041

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0155

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJ: AMCIT CHARLES DEAN

REF: A) STATE 004028

B) VIENTIANE 0117

1. PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM SECRETARY TO PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AND ALSO TO SOUVANNA PHOUMA WOULD BE HELPFUL. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A QUESTION OF TIMING. WE HAVE MAINTAINED A STEADY PRESSURE OVER THE LAST MONTH AND I JUST SENT A STIFF LETTER TO PHOUMI ON JANUARY 8 (REF B). WE MIGHT LET THIS LATEST SHOT SINK IN AND SEE WHAT REACTION WE GET. ALSO, I SHALL SEE SOUVANNA ON JANUARY 13 AND I WILL AGAIN DISCUSS THIS CASE WITH HIM AND WE CAN TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT HE WILL MENTION IT TO SOUPHANOUVONG. A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 17 MIGHT THEREFORE BE JUST RIGHT, BUT I WOULD LIKE AUTHORITY TO BE FLEXIBLE WITH REGARD TO ITS ACTUAL DELIVERY.

2. INFORMATION MRS. PETERSON PASSED TO US AND HOWARD DEAN WAS VALUABLE CORROBORATION OF WHAT WE HAD ALREADY OBTAINED FROM ORIGINAL ESCAPEES AND OTHER SOURCES. IT IS SECOND-HAND, HOWEVER, AND WE DO NOT THINK THAT HER REPEATING IT TO LPF WOULD HAVE AS GREAT IMPACT AS INFORMATION CONTAINED REF B. IN ADDITION, MRS. PETERSON'S SOURCES ARE LAO CIVILIANS WHO LIVE AND TRADE IN LPF ZONE AND WHO IN FACT VIOLATED CONDITIONS OF THEIR

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LPF "TRAVEL PERMITS" BY COMING TO VIENTIANE WHEN THEY

WERE "AUTHORIZED" ONLY TO VISIT PAK KADING OR PAKSANE.
IF LPF PRESSED FOR NAMES, MRS. PETERSON MIGHT JEOPARDIZE
HER SOURCES BY REVEALING NAMES OR BE PLACED IN EMBAR-
RASSING POSITION WHEN SHE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THEM.

3. WE ARE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP INFORMATION FROM MOST
RECENT SOURCES CITED IN SUBPARA E OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER
TO PHOUMI AND WILL REPORT FURTHER. (INITIAL REPORT
FROM ONE OF THESE SOURCES WAS SENT AS DAO VIENTIANE
IR#2-237-0001-75, SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MOVE OF SHARMAN
AND DEAN TO SAM NEUA, DTG 081047Z JAN 75.)
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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